

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

4 APR. 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Laos

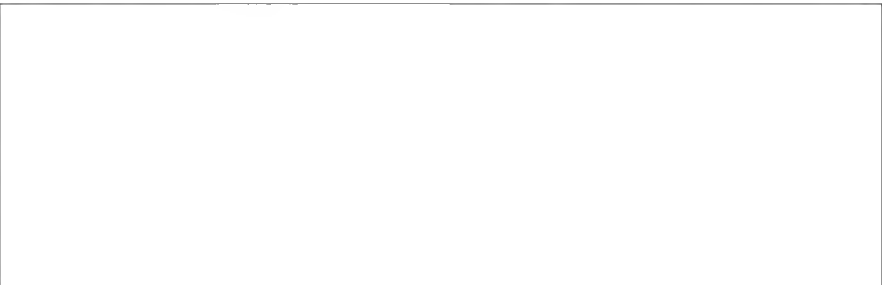
a. Phoumi's present plan is to convene the National Congress on 11 May to vote the King full powers, which Phoumi insists he will accept. The King will then form a government to include Souvanna, Souphannouvong and Boun Oum, but not Phoumi, who would command the armed forces. If Souvanna and Souphannouvong decline to serve, their posts would be held open by temporary ministers.

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2. Communist China


a. The Chinese Communists yesterday published an editorial repeating their stand that they will not be bound by any disarmament agreement reached without Chinese participation. Peiping would probably welcome an invitation to Geneva; we believe the motive would be to "expose the US peace fraud." The Chinese have endorsed Soviet disarmament proposals for the record, but they have made clear their belief that Khrushchev's undue emphasis on disarmament dampens revolutionary ardor.



3. Vietnam

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a. Three separate groups in Saigon--increasingly concerned, since the bombing of Diem's palace, over the danger of a struggle for power if he dies in office--are reported lining up supporters in the administration and the armed forces for a takeover should Diem die or be ousted.



b. One more step has been taken in Hanoi's program to unite political opposition to Diem with the announcement that the National Front for Liberation of South Vietnam has held its first congress and elected a central committee.

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4. Syria

a. The revised structure of the military command [redacted]

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[redacted] provides for a central decision-making body comprised of representatives from the various area commands. As the most important instrument of government in Syria it is likely to be the focal point of new rivalries.

b. Ambassador Knight reports a widespread impression, also entertained by the group in control, that the US favors the restoration of Egyptian rule. He has even been warned by the Foreign Minister, who we suppose is overconscious that the Sixth Fleet is in Beirut, against "any military intervention whatsoever."

5. West New Guinea

a. Indonesia's Chief of Staff for Operations in West New Guinea announced yesterday that Indonesian ships and planes patrolling the New Guinea coast have orders to fire on Dutch vessels on sight.

b. Sukarno accepts the Bunker formula as a basis for resumption of secret talks. We still do not have the formal Dutch reaction.

NOTES

- A. No Soviet flights were scheduled for the Berlin air corridors today. No further ground harassment has been reported.
- B. The Common Market's Council of Ministers yesterday agreed on a protest against changes in the US glass and carpets tariff.
- C. [REDACTED] OAS is no longer a valid political force in France, and that its fate will be sealed in Sunday's referendum. With the failure of major plans and desertion of key figures it also appears to be losing momentum in Algeria. 50X1
- D. A leading Soviet scientist [REDACTED] USSR concentration on space spectaculars has caused it to fall behind the US in space science, a situation to be remedied by a program of small satellite launchings that began with Sputnik XIII. 50X1
- E. In pursuit of "national unity" the Argentine armed forces are willing to have Guido discuss a settlement with the Peronistas, who, in turn, now believe that they can negotiate with the military.
- F. Moroccan-supported Mauritanian exiles in Mali on 29 March attacked a military outpost in Mauritania, apparently as part of Morocco's program to establish its sovereignty over that country. [REDACTED] 50X1
- G. An antimissile missile was apparently launched against an incoming target at Sarv Shagan on 28 March. The degree of success is not known. [REDACTED] 50X1

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DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

I.

II.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE